

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1007

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FRANCO-BRITISH DISCUSSIONS ON

CONCORDE

1. WIRE SERVICES REPORT THAT FOLLOWING THIS MORNING'S MEETING BETWEEN BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING FRENCH AND BRITISH SPOKESMEN INFORMED PRESS THAT WILSON AND GISCARD HAD AGREED TO PURSUE CONCORDE PROGRAM ALONG ITS PRESENT LINES AND TO COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF THE SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT PROGRAMMED. PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC FURTHER CONFIRMED ABOVE TO PRESS AFTER HE IN TURN DISCUSSED CONCORDE WITH WILSON IN THE AFTERNOON.

2. AFP REPORTS THAT THE REMAINING AIRCRAFT IN THE PRODUCTION RUN OF SIXTEEN WILL BE BUILT ACCORDING TO INITIAL DESIGN AND IT IS ONLY AFTER THESE AIRCRAFT ARE IN SERVICE THAT DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN WHETHER IMPROVED, LONGER RANGE VERSION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT EXPECT TO OBTAIN ANY FULLER
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DETAILS ON TALKS FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY OR OTHER

SOURCES WITHIN GOF ENABLING US COMMENT ON THIS OR
OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GISCARD-WILSON TALKS BEFORE NEXT
WEEK. BASED ON ABOVE PRESS REPORTS IT WOULD APPEAR
HOWEVER, THAT FOR CONCORDE FRENCH AND BRITISH MET ON
MIDDLE GROUND, WITH BRITISH AGREEING TO COMPLETE
CONCORDE PROGRAM UNDER TERMS PREVIOUSLY AGREED IN
EXCHANGE FOR WHICH GOF DID NOT INSIST
ON EXTENDING PRODUCTION RUN BY THREE AIRCRAFT TO TOTAL
OF NINETEEN OR ON MAKING MINIMAL CHANGE IN DESIGN
MIDWAY IN PRESENT PRODUCTION RUN TO PROVIDE SLIGHTLY
LONGER RANGE FROM EXTRA FUEL TANKS.
IRWIN

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